

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

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DRAFTED BY A/AID:MWAMPLER-S/NM:RADUGSTAD

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 299494

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: ERADICATION CAMPAIGN-MICROFOIL SPRAY UNITS AND
AGREEMENT FOR EQUIPMENT AND CONSUMABLES

1) SPECIAL ACTION GROUP CONSIDERATION REGARDING PROVISION
OF FIVE MICROFOIL SPRAY UNITS, IN ADDITION TO NINE SIMPLEX
UNITS ALREADY ON ORDER, HAS RAISED DOUBTS REGARDING NEED
FOR THIS MUCH AERIAL SPRAY EQUIPMENT. UNDERSTAND JOHN
FORD HAS BEEN OUT OF TOWN AND THEREFORE HAS PROBABLY NOT
HAD OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY HOW MUCH ADDITIONAL
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED. ALSO SUSPECT GERTZ IN HIS CONCERN
OVER SLOWNESS WITH WHICH CAMPAIGN GETTING UNDERWAY MAY
BE OVER REACTING WITHOUT PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY FOR
TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO ASSESS ACTUAL REQUIREMENTS OR GOM
CAPABILITY TO SUPPORT SUCH EXTENSIVE USE OF AERIAL SPRAY-
ING, PARTICULARLY IN FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION.

2) VIEW ABOVE, WE RESERVE ACTION ON THIS REQUEST PENDING
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ADVICE FORD AND AG'S PERSONNEL CONCERNED WITH HERBICIDE

AND AERIAL OPERATIONS HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP OPERATIONAL PLAN BASED ON NUMBER OF FIELDS WHICH CAN BE SPRAYED BY EACH AIRCRAFT PER DAY, HOW 212S AND 206S WILL BE USED, E.G., WILL 212S BE USED FOR DISTANT FIELDS ONLY OR WOULD THEY BE USED FOR ALL LARGER FIELDS AND 206S BE USED TO CLEAN UP SMALLER FIELDS IN SAME VICINITY? AND WHAT IS AG CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT TO SPRAY OPERATION OF THIS MAGNITUDE? BELIEVE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS WILL PROVIDE CLEARER INDICATION OF ANY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS BOTH IN TERMS OF EQUIPMENT, MANPOWER, AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT (INCLUDING SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES OF HERBICIDE) NECESSARY TO MAKE SPRAYING OPERATION EFFECTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL.

3) ALSO NOTE REQUEST FOR FIVE ADDITIONAL SPRAY UNITS WOULD PROVIDE TOTAL OF 14 WHICH WOULD NOT LEAVE SUFFICIENT 212S AVAILABLE FOR SECURITY ESCORT CONSIDERED NECESSARY IN CURRENT APPROVED OPERATIONAL PLAN.

4) SUGGEST IN VIEW OF EXPEDITING AGREEMENT OF EQUIPMENT AND CONSUMABLES THAT IT BE SIGNED NOW AS IT STANDS AND AMENDMENTS BE COMPLETED AS NEEDED SUBSEQUENTLY;

5) REQUEST ACTION GROUP AT POST CAREFULLY CONSIDER ABOVE RESERVATIONS AND COMMENT IF POSSIBLY BY COB DEC. 23 INCLUDING OPINIONS OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS AT POST AND AG'S OFFICE. KISSINGER

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